MONTHLY FIRE WEATHER / FIRE DANGER OUTLOOK

1. REPORTING UNIT: Southern Area

2. DATE Compiled: May 25, 2006
For the month of: June 2006

3. POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS/CRITICAL FIRE PROBLEMS

	Below Normal	Normal	Above Normal
This coming month		All other areas.	West and far South Texas
This season Apr-May-Jun		All other areas.	Florida, W. TX, W OK, Deep South TX, Gulf Coast.

4. FIRE WEATHER OUTLOOK

Periodic above average fire potential will persist in our far western areas of west Oklahoma, the north Texas Panhandle and (especially) across far west Texas, as mostly rain free and drought persistent conditions prevail.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS:

As we transition into June, the South continues to persist, in varying degrees, under 30 and 90 day rain deficits. As the East and South progress into late spring and summer, the now much weaker La Nina conditions will result in a transition from the below average rain pattern of the winter and early spring to what should be (at least) a more average to above average rain fall pattern. Consequently, fire activity will wane in June in our highest fire activity area of FL. However, drought conditions will still likely persist in a crescent shaped area from western OK to west/southwest TX. Despite "green-up" here, higher fire danger will wax and wane through June as well as for the rest of the year.

Florida and isolated areas of the central Gulf Coast remain of concern, as they continue to have anomalous drought conditions due to La Nina impacts. While earlier May moderate to heavy rains across the central Gulf states (1" to 3"+) have mitigated most of the fire danger concerns, 6" to 10"+ 90 day deficits remain here as well as across central and south FL areas. Days Since Significant Rain counts are not a concern, with most still not even up to the "low average" mark. In addition, ERCs have tracked away from their earlier spring trend of setting new historical highs. The short term and (especially) longer term deficits are somewhat disconcerting, given this dry area encompasses the very heavy dead fuel loadings in the blow down areas from last year's hurricane activity. Expect continued very high fire danger for central and south FL to begin to wane as we transition through June and traditional summertime rain activity trends upward. Because of the longer term deficits, drought fuel loading into June will be a key factor in the ongoing fire danger weather mix as we progress into summer. Management of NFDRS 88 fuel model greenness factors will be the key to ensuring ERCs are correctly calculated.

In Puerto Rico, lack of recent (30 days) rain fall in May has produced two distinct areas of short term deficits: one in the east (4" to 8") and a smaller area over the west-central coast. Some spotty high deficits also occur over central areas of the island. With the exception of dryness in the east extending also out to 90 days, the rest of the island is generally near or above 90 day totals.

Experimental blended drought depictions are available at
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/experimental/edb/sbfinal.gif and
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/experimental/edb/lbfinal.gif
SPI maps can be found at:
http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/spi/spi.html

PRECIPITATION ANOMALIES AND OUTLOOK:

We expect June will be a transition month for the far Southeast and Florida as more typical summertime humidity and better chances for afternoon showers and thunderstorms return. Although average to below average rain fall is generally anticipated over the Southeast, humidity levels are at least expected to be more typical of the season. We anticipate that rain activity over southern Missouri/Arkansas will be average to slightly above average.

TEMPERATURE ANOMALIES AND OUTLOOK:

We expect the colder than average temperatures in May for the eastern half of the US will transition to mostly average and above temperatures across the Southern Area in June.

5. FUELS

Fuel type	Stage of Fuel	
Grass	Annual: Full Green.	Perennial: Full Green
Shrub	Deciduous: Full Green.	Evergreen – Full green. Some drought stress.
Timber	Hardwoods: Full Green	Evergreen – Full Green. Some drought stress.

Please note: The values given below are averages over extremely large and diverse areas. Special interest groups (SIGs) for the eastern and western portions of our region are utilized to determine the numerical values represented here. SIG-West contains about 25 stations. SIG-East contains about 100 stations. Averages and actual values are taken for one day periods that include the previous month, the current month, and the next month. Only the maximum and minimum values for the entire area are represented here, without any distinction given for where or when (or even *if*) they actually occurred. If you use these values, or find them useful, please call us or drop us an email. If you do use these values, it is important that you understand their limitations and derivation.

LIVE FUEL MOISTURE (sage, deciduous, conifer): Snapshot Values taken May 24, 2006

Woody: **Normal = 115-155%,Actual = 70-250%**

Herbaceous: **Normal = 88-160%, Actual = 30->200%**

100-Hour Dead Fuel Moisture: **Normal = 18-230% Actual = <10-18%**

1000-Hour Dead Fuel Moisture: **Normal = 18-23%, Actual =10%-22%**

Keetch-Byrum Drought Index: **Normal = 90-500, Actual = 60-700+**

Burning Indices: **Normal = 11-37 Actual = 5-75**

Energy Release Component: **Normal = 5-21 Actual = 8-50**

6. AVERAGE FIRE OCCURRENCE – See table below.

7. ACTUAL FIRE OCCURRENCE - See table below.

FIRES

Data Thru May 24, 2006	Human	Light	H & L	RX
ACTUALS: # FIRES 2006 MTD TOTAL	1,883	91	1,974	131
ACTUALS: # FIRES 2006 YT D TOTAL	23,094	216	23,310	1,071
AVERAGES: Cum Monthly 19 Yr Avg Human/Lightning and 8 Yr Avg Rx	19,263	794		1,101
2006 Cum YTD % of Average	120%	27%		97%

ACRES

Data Thru May 24, 2006	Human	Light	H & L	RX
ACTUALS: ACRES 2006 MTD TOTAL	103,739	8,546	112,285	93,374
ACTUALS: ACRES 2006 YT D TOTAL	1,768,413	38,425	1,806,838	715,317
AVERAGES: Cum Monthly 19 Yr Avg Human/Lightning and 8 Yr Avg Rx	340,164	161,958		711,416
2006 Cum YTD % of Average	520%	24%		101%

8. WRITTEN SUMMARY.

Resources are expected to be adequate to meet the expected demand.

Geographic Area Name	**SOUTHERN AREA**
Precipitation Outlook	Average and above expected across Arkansas and western Kentucky with generally average and below rain fall over the Southeastern states.
Temperature Outlook	Average to Warmer than normal.
Fuels and Fire Danger Concerns	Concerns will be ongoing for West and Southwest Texas, West Oklahoma, Florida, and the Central Gulf Coast as all have drier than normal fuels. In addition, waxing and waning short/long term rain deficits are adding drought loading to the existing mix of drier than average heavy fuels across western areas of Virginia, the Carolinas, and the Central Gulf Coast.
Prescribed fire implications	Limited prescribed fire opportunities due to occurrence of green-up.
Miscellaneous	Tropical season begins June 1. Sea Surface Temperatures (as of May 25) were 0.5 to 1.5 C above normal across the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean. An active season (with its unique workload upon SACC) is expected.

9. FIRE POTENTIAL MAP FOR the Month of: Jun 2006: (Southern Area Only)